



the collegian

GAMEDAY GUIDE

friday, november 9, 2012

K-STATE VS. TCU

Kickoff at 6 p.m., Fort Worth, Texas



By the numbers

Nic Wahl
staff writer

.152

K-State's lead over Oregon for second place in the BCS standings

The Ducks' win over USC helped them inch closer to the Wildcats for the second spot behind No. 1 Alabama. Fellow unbeaten Notre Dame snuck past Pitt but played lowly Boston College this week and should see their strength of schedule take another hit as a result. One thing is for certain: the Wildcats must continue winning if they are going to reserve a seat at the championship table.

1 The number of turnovers K-State has committed in Big 12 play this season

College football's winners and losers have long been decided by the turnover battle. There isn't a team in the country that has turned the ball over less than the Wildcats. Collin Klein hasn't thrown an interception since the North Texas game on Sept. 22. During that same timespan, the Wildcats have turned opponents over 19 times.

4 The number of total interceptions thrown by both Ty Zimmerman and Allen Chapman in 2012

Chapman picked up three of his in K-State's 44-30 win over Oklahoma State last week. Zimmerman has been the steady hand, nabbing opponents' passes in four of the Wildcats' six Big 12 games. The Wildcats have picked off 12 passes as a team in conference play, four more than their closest competitors, Iowa State and Oklahoma.

16 The number of sacks allowed by TCU this season

Only Kansas has given up more sacks than the Horned Frogs this year, and 14 of those sacks have come during TCU's six conference games. K-State and TCU are tied — with Texas — for tops in the Big 12, sacking opposing quarterbacks 20 times this season, but the Wildcats have only surrendered seven sacks all year and five in Big 12 play. Nothing is a greater catalyst than the sack in stopping drives and creating turnovers. Look and see if K-State can build a lead early, forcing TCU's third-string quarterback Trevone Boykin to try and come back through the passing game.

19 K-State running back John Hubert needs just 19 yards to move into the top 10 on the Wildcats' career rushing list

Coming into the game with 1,854 career yards, the diminutive yet powerful runner continues to move himself up in the ranks of K-State greats. Cornelius Davis (1966-68) currently holds the 10th spot with 1,873 career yards. Hubert is averaging 85 rushing yards per game and has scored 12 rushing touchdowns this season.

174.61

Collin Klein's passer efficiency rating in 2012

No quarterback in the country has been as successful as Klein throwing the ball this year. Not only is his passer rating tops in the country, he leads college football in yards per attempt at 10.1 as well. Klein, who was dinged up last week against Oklahoma State, will have to perform well against a strong TCU defense. The Horned Frogs sit atop the Big 12 in both sacks and interceptions with 20 and 16 respectively on the season.

K-State offense continues to impress



Tramaine Thompson, junior wide receiver, stiff-arms an Oklahoma State defender for a big drive against the Cowboys last Saturday in Bill Snyder Family stadium. TCU head coach Gary Patterson said Tuesday that K-State has "the best offensive line in the Big 12."

Nicolas Wahl
staff writer

As No. 2 K-State's offense readies for this weekend's inaugural Big 12 trip for Fort Worth, Texas, to face TCU, a few common misconceptions about the Wildcats' attack, both structural and performance-related, are beginning to go by the wayside.

Though that may be the case, there are some commonly held opinions related to the K-State football program that are living up to the hype. K-State head coach Bill Snyder's closed-lip policy towards the media, especially regarding injuries, is the one shining brightest right now.

"I certainly hope so," is about all the answer you're going to get from Snyder, besides an agitated look and grandfatherly scorn, when asking if an injured player will join the game once more.

With that noted, the numbers show that with Klein, the K-State offense is one of, if not the, most dynamic offensive units in all of college football. That is something that no media member or fan would have uttered just three months ago.

Snyder was a little more forward a few minutes later.

"Would I expect him to play? I certainly hope that's the case, and I would expect that to take place," said Snyder to the room of reporters.

TCU head coach Gary Patterson, a K-State alum who many believed would take over the K-State coaching job following the firing of Ron Prince, isn't taking anything for granted.

"He'll play. I want him to play," Patterson told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "You want to play against the best."

TCU, a team that prides itself

a first down every time they throw the ball.

For comparison's sake, Oregon, with their flashy point-a-minute offense, averages 7.4 yards per attempt. K-State also scores more frequently than the Ducks, averaging 3.86 points per possession compared to second-place Oregon's 3.47.

TCU's defense plays a physi-

cal, ball-hawking style, intended to disrupt opposing offenses and create turnovers. The only problem is that the Wildcats don't commit them. K-State hasn't had a turnover since Tramaine Thompson muffed a punt that was recovered by Iowa State over a month ago. It is also the only turnover the Wildcats have surrendered in Big 12 play.

It will be up to the TCU defense to create third-and-long situations and to allow freshman defensive end Devonte Fields and his teammates to get after Klein in obvious passing situations. Fields has eight sacks on the season to lead the Big 12, and TCU is tied for the team lead in the conference with 20.

This all brings it back to the running game for Patterson and the Horned Frogs. If they cannot contain the K-State ground game, the third and longs won't occur frequently enough to give TCU a chance. Patterson alluded to the potency of the K-State offense Tuesday.

"They have the best offensive line in the Big 12 — they're good at running the football," Patterson said. "Their wide receivers are good. People always say they overachieve — not this Kansas State team. This team has a lot of seniors, their wide outs can run, they catch well; really good tight end; running back — he's faster and stronger than last year."

"Kansas State is by far the most physical team in the Big 12 and it's all going to come down to who wants it more."

Jason Verrett
TCU junior cornerback

on its defense, is well aware of the challenges of facing this powerful K-State offense.

TCU cornerback Jason Verrett noted the intensity that the Wildcat offense brings to the table.

"Kansas State is by far the most physical team in the Big 12 and it's all going to come down to who wants it more," said Verrett.

The Wildcats' offense bludgeons opponents with a powerful running game. Klein, running back John Hubert and company are averaging 5.5 yards per rush on the season, but this is no one-trick pony. The Wildcat passing attack has been phenomenal; K-State averages 9.8 yards per passing attempt. That is nearly

cal, ball-hawking style, intended to disrupt opposing offenses and create turnovers. The only problem is that the Wildcats don't commit them. K-State hasn't had a turnover since Tramaine Thompson muffed a punt that was recovered by Iowa State over a month ago. It is also the only turnover the Wildcats have surrendered in Big 12 play.

"It's a proven fact, if you don't win the turnover battle against Kansas State, that's how you get beat," Patterson said. "Pretty soon you look up, 'Hey, we didn't play badly,' and all of a sudden you're down 40."

TCU has caused 24 turnovers this season, second in the Big 12 behind the Wildcats' 25,

TCU: Big 12 newcomer ready to make huge statement

Mark Kern
sports editor

Their first season in the Big 12 Conference has been up and down for the TCU Horned Frogs.

A quick 3-0 start had TCU rolling, only to see senior quarterback Casey Pachall suspended because of a DUI. A two-game losing streak seemed to have the Horned Frogs on the edge of a collapse, but a thrilling double-overtime victory over West Virginia may have righted the ship for the TCU. With a win over the No. 2 team in the country, TCU could show the conference what they are capable of.

TCU head coach and K-State alum Gary Patterson talked about going up against his former alma mater at his press conference Tuesday.

"It's hard because you love seeing that they have come so far, and they are so close to maybe playing for a national championship," Patterson said about K-State. "On our side, we want to win our seventh game, and we have a lot to do in recruiting. We were in this situation last season with Boise State, where if they win they are probably going to a BCS game."

If TCU is going to win, the team will need a big game from redshirt-freshman quarterback Trevone Boykin. Boykin, who was the third-string running back on the depth chart in the preseason, gives the Horned Frogs a legitimate playmaker who can make plays with both his feet and his arm.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder discussed Boykin and the type of player he is.

"He is obviously someone that has a lot of talent," said Snyder. "He has a lot of zip on his throws and can make some plays with his feet. He is the type of guy — if he wasn't a good quarterback, he

would be a very effective running back. He is someone our defense needs to be ready for."

Boyd's No. 1 weapon is junior wide receiver Josh Boyce. In TCU's double-overtime victory over West Virginia, Boyce finished with 180 yards and a touchdown, including the 94-yard pass that sent the game into overtime. Standing at 6 feet tall and 203 pounds, Boyce has both the size and the speed to give cornerbacks problems. Look for K-State senior defensive backs Nigel Malone and Allen Chapman to take their turns against him. They can't allow Boyce to get behind the defense like he did against West Virginia.

While TCU's offense gets a lot of talk, its defense has some playmakers as well, led by freshman defensive end Devonte Fields. Through nine games, Fields has eight sacks, tied for 14th in the country. Despite his age, Fields has great speed and a great motor. The K-State offensive line has been outstanding on the season, but they will be put to the test against Fields and the Horned Frogs' front four.

Apparently learning from Bill Snyder,

Patterson has developed an explosive return game led by senior Skye Dawson. Dawson is similar to K-State's sophomore wide receiver Tyler Lockett — smaller in stature with big-time speed and quickness that helps him outrun defenders. If there is a weakness in K-State's play for TCU to exploit, it is the way K-State has played against the kick return, having allowed two returns for scores this year. K-State must stay in their lanes, because Dawson has the ability to run the ball at any time.

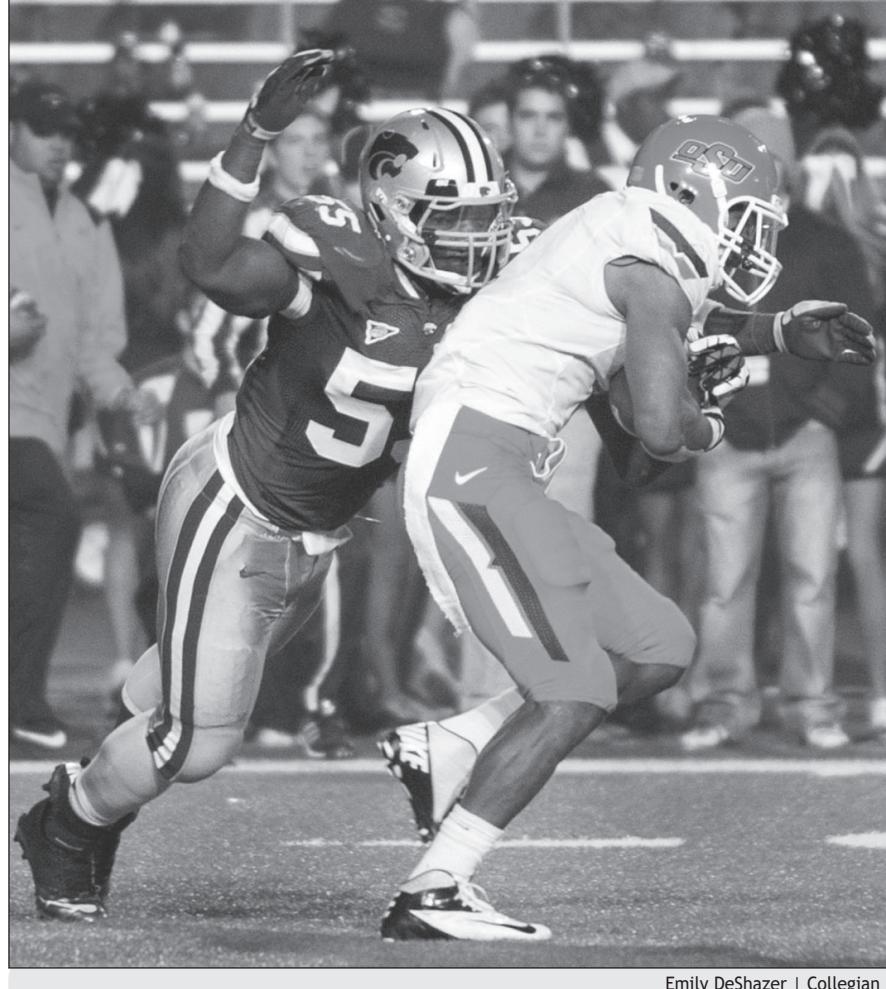
The TCU Horned Frogs, while struggling early in the Big 12, are showing they will be able to compete in the series throughout the rest of the year. A win Saturday would go a long way in showing they are for real.



Rebecca Philip | TCU 360
TCU junior wide receiver Josh Boyce scans the field after catching the ball against the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Oct. 20 in Fort Worth, Texas. The Horned Frogs fell to Texas Tech 56-53 in triple overtime and will be looking for a big upset over the Wildcats on Saturday.



MATCHING UP



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Senior defensive end Adam Davis tackles Oklahoma State junior running back Joseph Randle during the second quarter of the game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium last Saturday. The Wildcats' defense held the Cowboys, a team that usually averages more than 200 rushing yards per game, to a mere 87 rushing yards.



Matt Coffelt | TCU 360

TCU redshirt-freshman quarterback Trevone Boykin throws the ball against the Iowa State Cyclones on Oct. 6. This was his first time starting as he filled in for the suspended Casey Pachall. Against West Virginia last Saturday, he threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns, including a 94-yard pass to send the game, which TCU eventually won, into overtime.

Adam Suderman
staff writer

TCU rush offense vs. K-State rush defense

When TCU joined the Big 12 Conference, its running back was expected to be one of its strongest units and to be a key factor in guiding the journey into a deeper and more competitive conference. Those plans quickly changed with the departure of senior-to-be Ed Wesley and a season-ending injury to second-string junior running back Waymon James.

Left with no clear-cut options, TCU head coach Gary Patterson has been forced to use a trio of running backs led by freshman BJ Catalon. Seniors Matthew Tucker and Aundre Dean have also seen action. Add in redshirt-freshman quarterback Trevone Boykin and you have four players who each have more than 50 carries this season. Expect to watch at least three if not all four players see action on Saturday.

Facing a Wildcat rush defense that is ninth in the country will not make the situation any easier for the Horned Frogs. The unit as a whole is talented, but the experience needed to exploit

a deep and talented Wildcat front seven isn't there.
ADVANTAGE: K-State

TCU pass offense vs. K-State pass defense

After senior quarterback Casey Pachall was dismissed earlier this season, the Horned Frogs had to make adjustments to their offensive game to utilize the dual-threat abilities of replacement quarterback Boykin. The freshman has thrown for 1,376 yards this season on 113 completions out of 193 attempts.

As the season has progressed, Boykin has shown that he is capable of performing both on the ground and in the air. His statistics look good in overall passing yardage, but a 58.5 completion percentage and seven interceptions through five starts have limited his overall effectiveness.

A talented receiving corps led by junior Josh Boyce and sophomore Brandon Carter has helped ease Boykin's transition. They'll be facing a Wildcat pass defense that has had some coverage issues this season. However, thanks to a pass rush that has built itself into a strong unit, Boykin won't be allowed to settle in against K-State.
ADVANTAGE: K-State

K-State rush offense vs. TCU rush defense

All questions heading into this game will revolve around senior quarterback Collin Klein's ability to play. Even if Klein takes the field at less than 100 percent, K-State will benefit from all of what the Heisman Trophy finalist can offer. There has not been any firm reason to question Klein's availability for the game, and the senior will be a strong factor against a TCU rush defense that is ranked eighth in the country. The Horned Frogs have been very consistent against the run and have been much more susceptible to the pass.

The Wildcats have the country's 18th-ranked rushing offense, and I expect it to stay consistent when it takes the field on Saturday. Limiting the performances of Klein and junior running back John Hubert has proved difficult for each and every opposing team so far this season. In last Saturday's 44-30 win over Oklahoma State, K-State showed yet another weapon by using senior running back Angelo Pease in the Wildcat formation. Reestablishing Pease's role in the offense will only add to the difficulty for the TCU defense.
ADVANTAGE: K-State

K-State pass offense vs. TCU pass defense

Week in and week out, Klein continues to show that his throwing has hit a new level this season. The senior has now completed 54 out of 69 attempts for 801 yards and five touchdowns through his last 11 quarters of play. Those numbers and his conference numbers overall are also highlighted by zero turnovers.

Klein has built a strong connection with his wide receivers over the last three games, with senior Chris Harper and sophomore Tyler Lockett being the main beneficiaries. Throw in the performances of senior tight end Travis Tannahill and junior wide receiver Tramaine Thompson, and you have a very solid set of receivers.

When facing two of the conference's finest through the air, Texas Tech and West Virginia, the Horned Frogs have been obliterated. The Wildcats should continue to see success in their passing game against a struggling TCU secondary.
ADVANTAGE: K-State

Special teams

After one of college football's biggest special teams marathons between K-State

Final score: K-State 40, TCU 14

TCU will feed off of the environment and intensity early on, keeping the game close for a quarter. TCU will contain K-State's rushing offense early on, but the experience and talent of Klein, Hubert and Pease will take over for the majority of the game. With a pass rush that has developed well through conference play, K-State will be able to force Boykin into many uncomfortable situations. Senior defensive end Meshak Williams and company will enjoy several opportunities to pester the freshman.

and Oklahoma State last Saturday, questions remain on the unit's focus moving forward. The Wildcats' kickoff and punt coverage teams had been playing very well up to the game, and it'll be important for the groups to reestablish their identity.

TCU brings in one of the country's top 15 kickoff coverage teams and they'll need it to perform in big ways against K-State. Lockett and Thompson have formed one of the country's most formidable and underrated return teams. The duo have paid big dividends and will need to be limited if the Horned Frogs want to be the first to knock off the No. 2-ranked Wildcats.
ADVANTAGE: K-State

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Wildcats prepare for dynamic, high-powered offense



Tommy Theis | Collegian

Jarell Childs, senior linebacker, hunts down the Oklahoma State running back for a big tackle against the Cowboys on Nov. 3 in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The Wildcats won the game 44-30.

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

While the Horned Frogs are still in their first season with the Big 12 Conference, they are quickly molding a high-powered offense typically associated with their new conference.

Trailing the Wildcats' total offensive yardage by less than 15 total offensive yards per game, the Horned Frogs average roughly 34 points a game.

Since taking over indefinitely for suspended junior quarterback Casey Pachall, true-freshman Trevone Boykin won

road games against Baylor on Oct. 13 and West Virginia last Saturday, while losing to No. 25 Texas Tech in three overtimes three weeks ago.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder said at Tuesday's press conference that Boykin would offer the Wildcats the rare challenge of facing a true dual-threat quarterback.

"He's a talented quarterback," said Snyder. "We haven't really played against a lot of youngsters that do both — throw it and run it with equal adeptness — and he has a capacity to do exactly that."

Boykin, who became the first quarterback in TCU history to throw four touchdown passes in back-to-back games, offers a third running option for the Horned Frogs' rushing attack still damaged by the absence of Waymon James due to injury.

James, a junior who led the Horned Frogs in rushing yards last season, was injured for the entirety of the season during the Horned Frogs' game against Kansas on Sept. 15.

"If he wasn't a quarterback, he'd be a very fine running back," Snyder said of Boykin.

"As a quarterback, he's got some zip on the ball and he can throw the ball well. The statistics would probably indicate that he's both a quality thrower and a quality runner."

Boykin has shown poise late in games despite his youth, most recently against in the Horned Frogs' win over the Mountaineers in overtime.

Down 10 points at the half, Boykin led the Horned Frogs back to tie the game and did so again with under two minutes on a 94-yard touchdown pass to Josh Boyce to force overtime.

Boykin hit 13 of 13 third-down passes and threw all four touchdown passes on third down against Baylor in his first start at quarterback for the Horned Frogs.

"I think with the young quarterback getting more and more experience, he just gets better as he goes," Snyder said during Monday's Big 12 teleconference.

"That's been a tremendous asset for them. He's got the capacity to do so many different things, quite obviously. As you call him a dual-threat quarterback, he's good in both arenas."

The Horned Frogs' offense is not a modern, spread-the-ball type of offense that relies on the pass, however.

The Horned Frogs have five players with at least 150 yards rushing this season, more than any other team but Georgia Tech, which has seven.

"The complexity of the offense itself, there's a lot of variety. When I say variety, it's a varied offense," Snyder said. "There's a lot there schematically, formation-wise, motion-wise. They certainly present some problems just getting lined up against you."

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Zetmeir's Heisman Trophy watch: Klein still on top

John Zetmeir
staff writer

The one most powerful factor creating a close Heisman Trophy race this year is the recent injury of K-State senior quarterback Collin Klein.

After being taken out of the game in the third quarter of K-State's win over Oklahoma State last week, many speculations are circling over the specifics of Klein's injury. As fans have discovered, head coach Bill Snyder does not believe in revealing any information about his players' injuries.

Despite only playing half of the game last weekend, Klein still managed to complete 72 percent of his passes for 245 yards and ran for 64 yards and a touchdown. Klein also managed to secure, yet again, another Big 12 game without a turnover.

Through six conference games, Klein has zero turnovers and his Wildcats are currently 9-0 (6-0 Big 12 Conference) and ranked No. 2 in the BCS rankings. Last season, Klein scored 27 rushing touchdowns but only completed 57.3 percent of his passes and finished with a quarterback rating of 125.6. This season, he has completed 71.1 percent of his passes and has the highest quarterback rating in the country at 174.4 with only two interceptions thrown. Put that together with nearly 700 yards rushing and 17 rushing touchdowns and it is hard to say Klein isn't

the best dual-threat quarterback in the country. If Klein doesn't play this weekend, he will likely need his Wildcats to win the game for him in order for him to maintain his position at the top of the Heisman race.

What would happen if Oregon's starters had to play a full game? Well, they had to last weekend against USC and senior running back Kenjon Barner used it to skyrocket in the Heisman race. Last weekend against the Trojans, Barner erupted for 321 rushing yards and five touchdowns. Like Klein, Barner is being helped by the fact that his team is currently undefeated and ranked No. 3 in the BCS. Nine games in, Barner has more than 1,400 all-purpose yards, including 20 touchdowns.

Alabama's junior quarterback AJ McCarron is also in the race, but the question that lingers around the quarterback is whether he is just a game manager or a truly great quarterback. His team is No. 1 in the country, and he is surrounded by a large number of NFL-caliber talent, but numbers never lie. McCarron has 1,849 passing yards, 19 touchdown passes and zero interceptions. McCarron also got a key win last weekend when he led the Crimson Tide into Death Valley and defeated then-No. 5 Louisiana State University. He'll have another opportunity to add a win to his résumé this weekend against No. 15 Texas A&M.



Tommy Theis | Collegian
Collin Klein, senior quarterback, rushes past the Cowboy defense last Saturday night in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Klein rushed for his 50th career rushing touchdown during the game against the Cowboys.

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Games to watch: Aggies could seize huge opportunity

Mark Kern
sports editor



NO. 21 MISSISSIPPI STATE @ NO. 7 LSU

The Tigers were less than two minutes away from upsetting No. 1 Alabama but couldn't hold off the Crimson Tide as they fell 21-17. However, there were a lot of positives to come out of the game and they still have a lot to play for.

Zach Mettenberger, who has struggled all season, had the greatest game of his career. Mettenberger went 24-of-35 for 298 yards and one touchdown and finally showed the potential to help the offense catch up to a very good defense. Also, freshman running back Jeremy Hill continued running strong,

going for 107 yards and one touchdown.

The offense will look to continue to build off last week's game, going up against a Mississippi State defense that got manhandled by Johnny Manziel and the Texas A&M Aggies. In that game, Mississippi State gave up 693 yards of total offense — 361 rushing yards and 332 passing.

After a 7-0 start had the Bulldogs dreaming big, they have come back down to earth, being out-scored 76-20 in their past two games. With their defensive struggles, the Bulldogs will look to Tyler

Russell to try and help the team get back on track.

Russell has been outstanding on the season, throwing for 1,954 yards and 16 touchdowns, and has transformed into a dual-threat quarterback with his ability to run as well. He must have a big game if Mississippi State is going to get back on the winning track.

In last week's loss, LSU found something with Mettenberger. Look for him to have another strong game and for the Tigers to get a comfortable victory over Mississippi State in Baton Rouge, La.



NO. 15 TEXAS A&M @ NO. 1 ALABAMA

The Crimson Tide survived in Death Valley against rival LSU behind a fourth-quarter comeback led by AJ McCarron. In the SEC there are no weeks off, and once again, Alabama will have a tough test going up against an explosive Texas A&M offense led by freshman Johnny "Football" Manziel.

Just a freshman, Manziel has become a Heisman Trophy candidate due to his incredible play record. On the season, Manziel has totaled 3,449 yards and 31 touchdowns and has caused nightmares for opposing defenses. However, he has not ever

played in an environment quite like what he'll see on Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Coming off the national title run last season, the Crimson Tide appeared to take a step back as they lost a ton of talented players from last year's team. However, this allowed McCarron to emerge at the quarterback position.

Last season, McCarron's job was more to manage the game and avoiding mistakes. This season, he has proven that he can be a quarterback that goes out and wins the game, just like he did last Saturday against LSU.

For the Aggies, the move

from the Big 12 to the SEC has been smooth. They have gone in and shown that they can more than compete in the conference. However, in their two toughest matchups, they have blown second half leads and fallen twice at home. This is a huge opportunity for the Aggies to make a big-time statement on the road against the number one team in the country.

With that being said, Alabama at home is just too tough and will win a very close game. Look for Manziel to have a big game and start his 2013-14 campaign on Saturday.



NO. 13 OREGON STATE @ NO. 16 STANFORD

This, for the most part, is an elimination game in the Pac 12. Both teams are 5-1 in conference play, and each have to face Oregon in the upcoming weeks. Stanford has a big-time running back in Stephan Taylor, and he will be huge as the Cardinal will be starting redshirt freshman Kevin Hogan at quarterback.

In a 48-0 win over Colorado, Hogan accounted for

232 total yards and two touchdowns and gave the Cardinal more offensive versatility than they have had this season. This offensive versatility will be handy as they are going up against a defense that ranks 19th in the country, giving up only 18.1 points per game.

This defense does a great job of flying to the ball and creates a lot of extra opportunities for the offense.

Head coach Mike Riley appeared to be on the hot seat after a mediocre year but has gotten the Beavers back to playing some very good football.

This is a huge game for both teams, but the Cardinal are the home team, and that should be enough to get the Cardinal a tough hard-fought victory behind a strong rushing game by Stephan Taylor.

UPSET OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE @ NO. 16 NEBRASKA

Coming off the most tumultuous off-season in college football history, it appeared Penn State would be decimated for years to come. However, the team has responded to coach Bill O'Brien in a positive way, and quarterback Matt McGloin has emerged in his senior year.

After struggling last season and getting into a fight with a teammate during a bowl practice, he has matured and is playing the best football of his career.

On the season, McGloin

has thrown for 2,436 yards and 18 touchdowns, helping make up for the loss of Silas Redd to USC. At Penn State, the defense is always going to be able to play good football, but McGloin's play is what has given the Nittany Lions fans a reason to hope.

They will be tested against a Nebraska team that is within striking distance of a Big 10 championship.

Taylor Martinez has continued to develop as a quarterback, combining for 2,607 yards and 26 touchdowns. He has always been known

as a great runner, but he is becoming a much more accurate quarterback. This progression has helped Nebraska become a legitimate Big 10 contender.

Both teams are having very good season and will look to continue that Saturday. Penn State has been maybe the most surprising team this season, having to overcome so much adversity this past off-season. Look for McGloin to make the plays when needed and for Penn State to get another victory in Lincoln, Neb.

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Breaking down the game with Fort Worth journalist Stefan Stevenson



courtesy photo

Stefan Stevenson, of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, said TCU's season would change with a win on Saturday.

Mark Kern
sports editor

The K-State Wildcats will travel to Fort Worth, Texas, on Saturday looking to defeat TCU and keep their national title chances. The Horned Frogs appear to have righted their uneasy start with a 39-38 victory over West Virginia last Saturday and will look to pull off a huge upset over K-State this weekend.

Stefan Stevenson of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram spoke with the Collegian about TCU redshirt-freshman quarterback Trevone Boykin and what TCU will have to do to get the win.

Q. How has Trevone Boykin's play style surprised you so far from the quarterback position?

A. His poise, for the most part, has been surprising since he's just a redshirt freshman. He's had moments, especially in his first start, where his youth showed, but overall he has shown remarkable poise. Everyone knew he was a talented kid.

Q. For fans who don't know a lot about Josh Boyce, where does he rank among

the top receivers in the country?

A. TCU tries to spread the passes around, so Boyce's stats aren't going to be high in the national rankings. But he's in range to become the all-time TCU leader in the major categories [yards, receptions and touchdown receptions]. He rarely drops a pass, so his reliability has been important for the Frogs.

Q. With Collin Klein's status unknown, does that change how TCU has been game planning?

A. No, I don't think so. TCU fully expects Klein to play.

Q. What did going for the 2-point conversion last week do for the team's confidence?

A. It's an added emotional boost, I think. The offense has been up and down with so many injuries and player losses, so moments like that can help a team psychologically.

Q. What could a win like this do for TCU as a contender in the Big 12 in the future?

A. I'm not sure about the future, but a win Saturday would change the complexion of TCU's season. The Frogs feel as if they let a couple earlier games slip away, so an upset of Kansas State would probably make up for some of that.

Q. What is the one thing TCU has to do to have a shot to pull the upset?

A. TCU needs to pressure Klein and stuff the run. The Wildcats rarely make mistakes, so TCU can't make any on offense, either. If the Frogs turn it over, they have little chance at a win.

Q. What does this game mean to head coach and K-State alum Gary Patterson?

A. He obviously has a lot of friends and family who follow Kansas State, so it will be an emotional day for him. But it will probably mean more to him when TCU travels to play in Manhattan in 2013.

Breaking the Cowboys' charge



Tommy Theis | Collegian

Tyler Lockett, sophomore wide receiver, pushes for a few extra yards after catching the ball against the Cowboys last week in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

K-State survives in simulation

Nick Davis
staff writer

This week's "NCAA Football 13" video game simulation sees the No. 2-ranked K-State Wildcats head down to Fort Worth, Texas, to take on the TCU Horned Frogs. TCU is coming off a double overtime win at West Virginia, and K-State is coming off a game in which it forced five turnovers in a victory against Oklahoma State. Can the Wildcats continue dominating road teams or will TCU pull off the upset?

1st Quarter — K-State gets on the board here first with a Cantele 44-yard field goal; K-State leads 3-0. Running back Matthew Tucker dominates the ensuing TCU drive, carrying the ball eight times for 57 yards and finishes with a 1-yard touchdown run, giving TCU a 7-3 lead. After the two teams exchange possessions via punt, the clock expires with K-State marching down the field.

2nd Quarter — On the first play of the quarter, Collin Klein finds Tyler Lockett for a 21-yard touchdown pass and K-State reclaims the lead 10-7. TCU goes for it on fourth-and-3, quarterback Trevon Boykin fails to complete a pass and TCU gives K-State the ball back. Klein leads his offense onto the field and orchestrates a lengthy and productive drive, capping it with a 25-yard pass to Lockett again to extend the lead to 17-7. TCU punts to the Wildcats and they eat away at the clock before TCU cornerback Kevin White intercepts Klein and takes it to the end zone, bringing TCU

within 3. K-State takes a 17-14 lead into halftime.

3rd Quarter — Both teams trade punts. TCU's QB Boykins goes for a fourth-down conversion again and can't convert. On the next drive Collin Klein hits wide receiver Chris Harper for a 37-yard touchdown pass. K-State takes the lead 24-14. TCU wide receiver Brandon Carter makes a diving grab in the end zone and TCU closes the gap to 24-21 as we head to the fourth quarter.

4th Quarter — A forced fumble is returned 36 yards to give TCU a 28-24 lead, and now the Wildcats' undefeated season appears in jeopardy. Collin Klein answers in a big way by hooking up with Harper for a 62-yard touchdown pass, and K-State reclaims the lead 31-28. The Horned Frogs find themselves with no timeouts remaining and desperately needing a score as the game winds down. On an incomplete fourth-down pass, Boykin turns the ball over with 1 second left. Collin Klein kneels down and K-State leaves Fort Worth with a 31-28 come-from-behind victory.

Play of the Game — Klein to Harper 62-yard touchdown pass

Player of the Game — Collin Klein, who threw 322 yards and was 18-of-24, including four touchdown passes and one interception. He also anchored the running game with 28 carries for 133 yards.

Notable mention — Arthur Brown totaled 20 tackles and one sack.

Willie's pushups — 85 pushups

BCS Poll

1. Alabama .9957
2. K-State .9318
3. Oregon .9166
4. Notre Dame .9050
5. Georgia .8171
6. Florida .7863
7. LSU .7054
8. South Carolina .6206
9. Louisville .6040
10. Florida State .5969
11. Oregon State .5965
12. Oklahoma .5812

13. Clemson .5772
14. Stanford .5086
15. Texas A&M .5060
16. Nebraska .3976
17. Texas .3593
18. UCLA .2533
19. USC .1706
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